

REMARKS

Fourteen claims (1-12, 29, and 45) have been canceled, ten new claims (51-60) have been added, and claims 24, 28, and 39 have been amended to leave claims 13-28, 30-44, 46 and 48-60 in the application.

Claims 1-12 are canceled and may be pursued in one or more continuing applications. Their cancellation (and the foregoing claim amendments) should therefore not be regarded as any admission that the current claim rejections are correct.

Claims 13-23 have been allowed.

Claims 24-29: Independent claim 24 is amended to incorporate allowed claim 29 (which is now canceled), and thus independent claim 24 and its dependent claims 25-28 should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 24. Claim 28 is amended to avoid redundancies with its amended parent claim 24.

Claims 30-38 have been allowed.

Claims 39-50: Independent claim 39 is amended to incorporate allowed claim 45 (which is now canceled), and thus independent claim 39 and its dependent claims 40-44, 46, and 48-50 should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 39.

Claims 51-60: New independent claim 51 consists of independent claim 39 with its allowed dependent claim 50 incorporated, and thus new independent claim 51 should be allowable. New dependent claims 52-60 consist of renumbered claims 40-46, 48, and 49 (which are dependent from claim 39), and thus these claims should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 51.

1. In Closing

If any questions regarding the application arise, please contact the undersigned attorney. Telephone calls related to this application are welcomed and encouraged. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

For the Applicant,



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